

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1,3, and 5 without prejudice, this will cancel all original claims.

1 1. (Cancelled) An opener to facilitate the removal of a
2 threaded lid from the top of a jar, said jar having an open mouth
3 surrounded by a thread, said opener comprising a body having an
4 arcuate C-shape with an inner peripheral sidewall, an outer
5 peripheral sidewall, an upper edge and a lower edge, said body
6 terminating at two ends separated by an open gap, an inwardly
7 extending peripheral stop extending around said internal
8 peripheral sidewall, adjacent to said upper edge, the region
9 inside said internal peripheral sidewall and said stop being
10 open, said body being made of a stiffly flexible self-shape
11 retaining substance whereby said body can be spread conveniently
12 to receive a lid, and restored to contact said lid and bearing
13 against the lid while being twisted to remove the lid from the
14 jar.

1 2. (Previously cancelled) An opener according to claim 1 in
2 which said outer peripheral sidewall is formed with serrations to
3 improve its grip characteristics for the hand of a user.

1 3. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 1 in which said
2 inner sidewall includes a pair of portions of different diameter
3 whereby to form a shoulder facing toward said lower edge so

4 proportioned and arranged as to stop a rim on a lid to limit the
5 downward travel of the lower edge, whereby said lower edge is
6 prevented from contacting said jar.

1 4. (Previously Cancelled) An opener according to claim 1 in
2 which a stop extends around the inside of the said upper edge to
3 prevent a lid from passing entirely through said body.

1 5. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 1 in which an
2 abutment interconnects said ends of said body, bridging said gap,
3 said abutment includes a pair of arms and a bight, said arms
4 being connected to a respective end and to the bite projecting
5 entirely beyond said outer sidewall whereby to be contactible by
6 the thumb or a finger of a user, said abutment being unitary with
7 said body, flexible and self-shape retaining.

1 6. (Previously Cancelled) An opener according to claim 5 in
2 which said abutment includes a pair of arms and a bight, said
3 arms being connected to a respective end and to the bight.

1 7. (Previously Cancelled) An opener according to claim 5 in
2 which said inner sidewall includes a pair of portions of
3 different diameter whereby to form a shoulder facing toward the
4 lower edge so proportioned and arranged as to stop a rim on a lid
5 to limit the downward travel of the lower edge, whereby said

6 lower edge is prevented from contacting said jar.

1 8. (Previously Cancelled) An opener according to claim 7 in
2 which said outer peripheral sidewall is formed with serrations to
3 improve its grip characteristics for the hand of a user.

1 9. (Previously Cancelled) An opener according to claim 7 in
2 which said abutment includes a pair of arms and a bight, said
3 arms being connected to a respective end and to the bight.

1 10. (Previously Cancelled) An opener to facilitate the
2 removal of a threaded lid from the top of a jar, said jar having
3 an open mouth surrounded by a thread, said opener comprising a
4 circular body with an inner peripheral sidewall, an outer
5 peripheral sidewall, an upper edge and a lower edge, said body
6 being made of a stiffly flexible self-shape retaining substance
7 whereby said body can be spread conveniently to receive a lid,
8 and gripped to press against the lid while being twisted to
9 remove the lid from the jar, said inner sidewall including a pair
10 of portions of different diameter whereby to form a shoulder
11 facing toward the lower edge so proportioned and arranged as to
12 stop a rim on a lid to limit the downward travel of the lower
13 edge, whereby said lower edge is prevented from contacting said
14 jar.

Please add the following new claims:

1 11. (New) An opener to facilitate the removal of a threaded
2 lid from the top of a jar, said jar having an open mouth
3 surrounded by a thread, said opener comprising a body having an
4 circularly arcuate C-shape with an inner sidewall, an outer
5 sidewall, an upper edge and a lower edge, said body terminating
6 at two ends separated by an open gap, an inwardly extending stop
7 extending along said inner sidewall adjacent to said upper edge,
8 the region inside said inner sidewall being open, said inner
9 sidewall including a pair of portions of different diameter, with
10 the portion of larger diameter being the closer portion to said
11 lower edge, whereby to form a shoulder facing toward said lower
12 edge, said body being made of a stiffly flexible substance which
13 tends to restore itself to an original shape when distortive
14 forces are removed, whereby said body can be spread open at said
15 gap to receive a lid, and released to embrace said lid, thereby
16 to assist a user to remove said lid from said jar, the larger
17 diameter portion facilitating the entry of the lid into the
18 region inside the body.

1 12. (New) An opener according to claim 11 in which said
2 shoulder is so disposed and proportioned as to engage a part of
3 the lid before the lower edge of the body can reach and contact
4 the jar itself.

1 13. (New) An opener according to claim 11 in which an
2 abutment comprising a pair of arms and a bight joining said arms
3 is integral with said body, said arms being joined at a
4 respective said end, and disposed entirely radially beyond said
5 outer sidewall, said abutment being springly flexible to enable
6 the ends of the body to be spread apart, but sufficiently strong
7 to assist a user to apply torque to said body to open the jar.

1 14. (New) An opener according to claim 13 in which said
2 shoulder is so disposed and proportioned as to engage a part of
3 the lid before the lower edge of the body can reach and contact
4 the jar itself.